



Thanksgiving travel rush is back with some new habits



Travelers wheel the bags past the line for TSA screening in Terminal B at Logan International Airport, Monday, Nov. 21, 2022, in Boston.

Associated Press

Crossing for Prevention Deaxo Croes successfully swims from Bonaire to Curaçao



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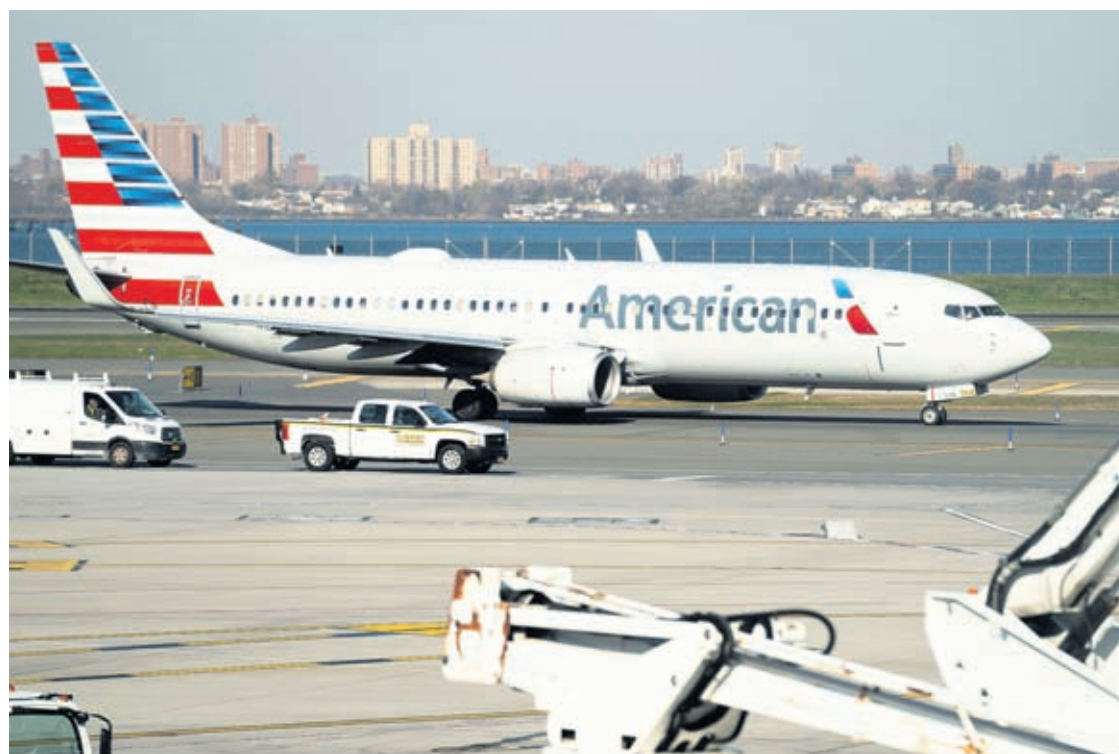
By **DAVID KOENIG and AL-EXANDRA OLSON**
Associated Press

The Thanksgiving travel rush was back on this year, as people caught planes in numbers not seen in years, setting aside inflation concerns to reunite with loved ones and enjoy some normalcy after two holiday seasons marked by COVID-19 restrictions.

Changing habits around work and play, however, might spread out the crowds and reduce the usual amount of holiday travel stress. Experts say many people will start holiday trips early or return home later than normal because they will spend a few days working remotely — or at least tell the boss they're working remotely.

The busiest travel days during Thanksgiving week are usually Tuesday, Wednesday and the Sunday after the holiday. This year, the Federal Aviation Administration expects Tuesday to be the busiest travel day with roughly 48,000 scheduled flights.

Chris Williams, of Raleigh, North Carolina, flew Tuesday morning with his wife and two kids to Atlanta, Georgia, to spend the holiday with extended family. "Of course it's a stressful and expensive time to fly," said Williams, 44, who works in finance. "But after a couple years of not getting to spend Thanksgiving with



An American Airlines plane at LaGuardia Airport's Terminal B, Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2022, in New York. Associated Press

our extended family, I'd say we're feeling thankful that the world's gotten to a safe enough place where we can be with loved ones again."

Although Williams said the family's budget has been tight this year, he's capitalized on the opportunity to teach his kids some personal finance basics. His youngest, 11, has been learning how to budget her allowance money since March and is excited to buy small gifts for her friends on Black Friday or Cyber Monday. "Probably slime," she said, "with glitter."

The Transportation Security Administration screened

more than 2.6 million travelers on Monday, surpassing the 2.5 million screened the Monday before Thanksgiving in 2019. The same trend occurred Sunday, marking the first year that the number of people catching planes on Thanksgiving week surpassed pre-pandemic levels.

"People are traveling on different days. Not everyone is traveling on that Wednesday night," says Sharon Pinkerton, senior vice president at the trade group Airlines for America. "People are spreading their travel out throughout the week, which I also think will help ensure smoother op-

erations."

AAA predicts that 54.6 million people will travel at least 50 miles from home in the U.S. this week, a 1.5% bump over Thanksgiving last year and only 2% less than in 2019. The auto club and insurance seller says nearly 49 million of those will travel by car, and 4.5 million will fly between Wednesday and Sunday.

U.S. airlines struggled to keep up as the number of passengers surged this year.

"We did have a challenging summer," said Pinkerton, whose group speaks for members including American, United and Delta.

She said that airlines have pared their schedules and hired thousands of workers — they now have more pilots than before the pandemic. "As a result, we're confident that the week is going to go well."

U.S. airlines plan to operate 13% fewer flights this week than during Thanksgiving week in 2019. However, by using larger planes on average, the number of seats will drop only 2%, according to data from travel-researcher Cirium.

Airlines continue to blame flight disruptions on shortages of air traffic controllers, especially in Florida, a major holiday destination.

Controllers, who work for the Federal Aviation Administration, "get tested around the holidays. That seems to be when we have challenges," Frontier Airlines CEO Barry Biffle said a few days ago. "The FAA is adding another 10% to headcount, hopefully that's enough."

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg has disputed such claims, saying that the vast majority of delays and cancellations are caused by the airlines themselves.

TSA expects airports to be busier than last year and probably about on par with 2019. The busiest day in TSA's history came on the Sunday after Thanksgiving in 2019, when nearly 2.9 million people were screened at airport checkpoints. □



The healthcare.gov website is seen on Nov. 1, 2022 in Washington. Associated Press

By **AMANDA SEITZ**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration announced Tuesday that it's seeing a big uptick in the number of new customers

buying private health insurance for 2023 from the Affordable Care Act's marketplace.

Nearly 3.4 million people have signed up for coverage — an increase of 17%

Boost in people seeking HealthCare.gov coverage, HHS says

compared to the same time last year. The boost in enrollment comes as the number of uninsured Americans this year reached a historic low of 8%.

"When you have a good product, people will buy it," Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra told The Associated Press. More than 665,000 new people have bought plans on the marketplace since open enrollment started on Nov. 1.

HHS didn't provide any demographic details about

the new enrollees, but Becerra said he hopes the agency is reaching people in marginalized communities.

Already this year, the marketplace saw huge gains in the number of Black, Latino and Native Americans who sought coverage.

Between 2020 and 2022, the number of Latino enrollees jumped from 1.7 million to 2.6 million while 1.3 million Black people enrolled last year, up from 900,000 the year before.

The number of American

Indian enrollees increased from 52,000 to 68,000.

The boost in enrollment is largely driven by generous subsidies -- extended through 2025 in the Democrats' \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief law -- that keep monthly premiums payments at \$0 or just a few dollars monthly for most people who sign up.

People can sign up for coverage on HealthCare.gov or through their state's marketplace by Dec. 15 to get coverage that starts on Jan. 1. □

U.S. renews push for COVID boosters as data show they protect

By **LAURAN NEERGAARD**
AP Medical Writer

Americans who got the updated COVID-19 booster shots are better protected against symptomatic infection than those who haven't at least for now, U.S. health officials said Tuesday.

Updated boosters rolled out by Pfizer and rival Moderna in September have been a hard sell for vaccine-weary Americans. Only about 13% of U.S. adults so far have gotten a "bivalent" shot that targets the omicron strain and the original coronavirus. On Tuesday, White House officials announced a renewed push for more Americans to get the latest shots. The first look at the new shots' real-world effectiveness shows they work, said Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert.

Speaking at a White House briefing expected to be his last before he retires from the government at the end of year, Fauci said what "may be the final message I give you from this podium is that please, for your own safety, for that of your family, get your updated COVID-19 shot as soon as you're eligible."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention analyzed about 360,000 COVID-19 tests given to people with coronavirus-like symptoms at drugstores around the country between September, when the new boosters rolled out, and early November. Researchers compared the vaccination status of those who wound up having COVID-19 with those who didn't.

The new omicron-targeting booster added 30% to 56% protection against symptomatic infection, depending on how many prior vaccinations someone had, how long ago and their age, the CDC concluded. People getting the greatest benefit are those who'd never had a prior booster, just two doses of the original COVID-19 vaccine at least eight months earlier, said CDC's Dr. Ruth Link-



Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, speaks during a press briefing at the White House, Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

Gelles, who led the study. But even people who got a summertime booster of the original vaccine before seeking the new fall formula were 30% to 40% more protected than if they'd skipped this latest shot, she said. "We think about it as the additional benefit or incremental benefit of getting one more dose, and in this case that one more dose is a bivalent," Link-Gelles said. The updated boosters target the BA.5 omicron strain that until recently was the most common type, an effort to build on the original COVID-19 vaccines' protection as the virus continues to mutate. The original shots have offered strong protection against severe disease and death no matter the variant, but protection against mild infection wanes. CDC's analysis tracked only the first few months of the new boosters' use so it's too early to know how long added protection against symptomatic infection lasts.

But "certainly as we enter the holiday season, personally I would want the most possible protection if I'm seeing my parents and grandparents," Link-Gelles said. "Protection against infection there is going to be really helpful, because you potentially would stop yourself from getting a grandparent or other loved one sick."

Even protection against severe illness slipped some when BA.5 surged, the reason health authorities have

strongly urged older adults and others at high risk not to skip the new booster.

To that end, the Biden administration announced a six-week campaign urging people especially seniors to get the boosters, saying the shots could save lives as Americans gather for the holidays.

The campaign echoes a call earlier this week from the American Medical Association and nearly a dozen other health groups for people to hurry up and get both the COVID-19 booster and their yearly flu vaccination. The flu has hit unusually strong and early this year. Combined with COVID-19 cases and other problematic respiratory viruses, hospitals and doctors' offices are packed. □

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Supreme Court OKs handover of Trump tax returns to Congress

By **MARK SHERMAN**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Tuesday cleared the way for the imminent handover of former President Donald Trump's tax returns to a congressional committee after a three-year legal fight.

The court, with no noted dissents, rejected Trump's plea for an order that would have prevented the Treasury Department from giving six years of tax returns for Trump and some of his businesses to the Democratic-controlled House Ways and Means Committee.

Alone among recent presidents, Trump refused to release his tax returns either during his successful 2016 campaign or his four years in the White House, citing what he said was an ongoing audit by the IRS. Last week, Trump announced he would run again in 2024. It was the former president's second loss at the Supreme Court in as many months, and third this year. In October, the court refused to step into the legal fight surrounding the FBI search of Trump's Florida estate that turned up classified documents.

In January, the court refused to stop the National Archives from turning over



Former President Donald Trump smiles toward guests, as he arrives to speak at an event at Mar-a-Lago, Nov. 18, 2022, in Palm Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

documents to the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol. Justice Clarence Thomas was the only vote in Trump's favor.

In the dispute over his tax returns, the Treasury Department had refused to provide the records during Trump's presidency. But the Biden administration said federal law is clear that the committee has the right to examine any taxpayer's return, including the president's.

Lower courts agreed that the committee has broad authority to obtain tax returns and rejected Trump's claims that it was overstepping and only wanted the documents so they could be made public.

Chief Justice John Roberts imposed a temporary freeze on Nov. 1 to allow the court to weigh the legal issues raised by Trump's lawyers and the counter arguments of the administration and the House of Representatives.

Just over three weeks later, the court lifted Roberts' order without comment.

Rep. Richard Neal, D-Mass., the committee chairman until the next Congress begins in January, said in a statement that his committee "will now conduct the oversight that we've sought for the last three and a half years."

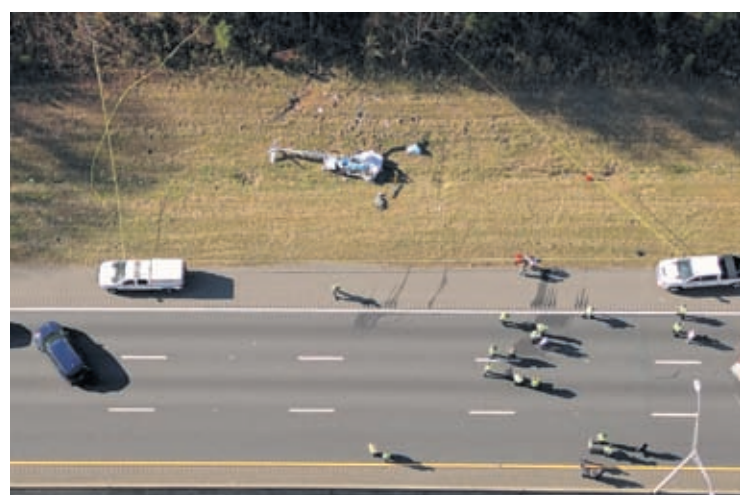
The Trump campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The House contended an order preventing the IRS

from providing the tax returns would leave lawmakers "little or no time to complete their legislative work during this Congress, which is quickly approaching its end."

Had Trump persuaded the nation's highest court to intervene, he could have run out the clock on the committee, with Republicans ready to take control of the House in January. They almost certainly would have dropped the records request if the issue had not been resolved by then.

The House Ways and Means panel first requested Trump's tax returns in 2019 as part of an investigation into the Internal Revenue Service's audit program and tax law compliance by the former president. A federal law says the Internal Revenue Service "shall furnish" the returns of any taxpayer to a handful of top lawmakers.

The Justice Department under the Trump administration had defended a decision by then-Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to withhold the tax returns from Congress. Mnuchin argued that he could withhold the documents because he concluded they were being sought by Democrats for partisan reasons. A lawsuit ensued. □



In this image take with a drone, emergency personnel work at the scene of a helicopter crash on the side of Interstate 77 South in Charlotte, N.C., Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2022.

Associated Press

By **BEN FINLEY**
Associated Press

A helicopter pilot and a meteorologist who worked for a North Carolina television station died Tuesday when a news helicopter crashed along an interstate

highway in the Charlotte area, according to authorities and the station.

Meteorologist Jason Myers and pilot Chip Tayag were identified as the people killed in the crash in a statement by WBTV. The crash

TV meteorologist, pilot die in N Carolina helicopter crash

snarled traffic along Interstate 77 in the Charlotte area after its southbound lanes were closed by investigators, but no vehicles on the ground were involved. Two people were on board the Robinson R44 helicopter, which crashed around 12:20 p.m. local time, according to a statement from the Federal Aviation Administration. The Mecklenburg County EMS Agency said the two were pronounced dead at the scene.

The station paid tribute to Myers and Tayag both in a written statement and on the air. WBTV broadcasters who had been report-

ing on the crash identified their colleagues through cracked voices on air about three hours following the deadly crash.

"We are working to comfort their families in this difficult time. We appreciate the outpouring of support for our staff and your continued prayers for their families," the station said in a statement.

Police said that no vehicles on the ground were involved in the crash. Preliminary witness accounts indicate that the pilot made some "diversionary" maneuvers and "tried to avoid injuring anyone else" and "probably saved some

lives," Johnny Jennings, chief of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, told reporters.

"And if that is truly the case, then that pilot is a hero in my eyes to make sure that the safety and security of those that were driving was not in jeopardy," Jennings said.

The chief added: "We're looking at going into the holiday season where we're supposed to be spending time with our loved ones. And tragically, there are two people involved in this crash that will not be going home and will not be spending the holidays with their family." □

Kim's sister warns U.S. of 'a more fatal security crisis'

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM**

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

The influential sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un warned the United States on Tuesday that it would face "a more fatal security crisis" as Washington pushes for U.N. condemnation of the North's recent intercontinental ballistic missile test. Kim Yo Jong's warning came hours after U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield told an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council that the U.S. will circulate a proposed presidential statement condemning North Korea's banned missile launches and other destabilizing activities. After the meeting, Thomas-Greenfield also read a statement by 14 countries which supported action to limit North Korea's advancement of its weapons programs.

Kim Yo Jong, who is widely considered North Korea's second most powerful person after her brother, lambasted the United States for issuing what she called "a disgusting joint statement together with such rabble as Britain, France, Australia, Japan and South Korea." Kim compared the United



This photo provided on Aug. 14, 2022, by the North Korean government, Kim Yo Jong, sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, delivers a speech during the national meeting against the coronavirus, in Pyongyang, North Korea, on Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022.

Associated Press

States to "a barking dog seized with fear." She said North Korea would consider the U.S.-led statement "a wanton violation of our sovereignty and a grave political provocation." "The U.S. should be mindful that no matter how desperately it may seek to disarm (North Korea), it can never deprive (North Korea) of its right to self-defense and that the more hell-bent it gets on

the anti-(North Korea) acts, it will face a more fatal security crisis," she said in a statement carried by state media. Monday's U.N. Security Council meeting was convened in response to North Korea's ICBM launch on Friday, which was part of a provocative run of missile tests this year that experts say is designed to modernize its nuclear arsenal and increase its leverage

in future diplomacy. Friday's test involved its most powerful Hwasong-17 missile, and some experts say the successful steep-angle launch proved its potential to strike anywhere in the U.S. mainland if it's fired at a standard trajectory. During the Security Council meeting, the United States and its allies strongly criticized the ICBM launch and called for action to limit

North Korea's nuclear and missile programs. But Russia and China, both veto-wielding members of the Security Council, opposed any new pressure and sanctions on North Korea. In May, the two countries vetoed a U.S.-led attempt to toughen sanctions on North Korea over its earlier ballistic missile tests, which are prohibited by U.N. Security Council resolutions. North Korea has said its testing activities are legitimate exercises of its right to self-defense in response to regular military drills between the United States and South Korea which it views as an invasion rehearsal. Washington and Seoul officials say the exercises are defensive in nature. Kim Yo Jong said the fact that North Korea's ICBM launch was discussed at the Security Council is "evidently the application of double-standards" by the U.N. body because it "turned blind eyes" to the U.S.-South Korean military drills. She said North Korea won't tolerate any attempt to undermine its right to self-defense and will take "the toughest counteraction to the last" to protect its national security. □

Dominican Republic rejects criticism of Haitian deportations

By **MEGAN JANETSKY**

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — The Dominican Republic said it "profusely rejects" criticism of its crackdown on Haitian migrants from a growing number of countries and human rights agencies. Dominican authorities have ramped up border enforcement and deportations of Haitians, saying such actions are crucial to national security amid intensifying turmoil in the neighboring country due to a gang blockade of fuel supplies and a cholera outbreak. Authorities say they deported 43,900 migrants, largely Haitians, between July and October. In September and October alone, deportation figures shot up by about 50%.

The government's actions have sparked heavy criticism in recent weeks from Haiti, the U.N. human rights chief and the United States. On Saturday, the U.S. Embassy in the capital of Santo Domingo sent out a warning saying Dominican migration authorities "have carried out widespread operations" to detain largely Haitian migrants who they believe are in the country illegally. "There are reports that detainees are held in overcrowded detention centers, without the ability to challenge their detention and without access to food or toilets, sometimes for days, before being released or deported to Haiti," the Embassy wrote. The Embassy also warned

that the government's actions could pose a problem for darker-skinned Americans and African Americans traveling in the Dominican Republic. Unlike the U.N. and Haiti, however, the U.S. did not explicitly call for the country to halt deportations. President Joe Biden's administration has defended its own practice of deporting and expelling Haitian migrants arriving at its southern border, despite heavy criticism from human rights organizations. The Dominican Ministry of Foreign Relations lashed back at the criticism on Sunday, saying the American government had "no evidence" of any sort of systematic human rights violations. It also decried

what it said was a lack of international support to handle the migration from Haiti. "The Dominican government never could have imagined there would be such a harsh insinuation

made about our country," the ministry wrote, "much less from an ally that has been subject to accusations of xenophobic and racist treatment of migrants, including in parts of its own population." □



Haitians wait to cross the border between Dominican Republic and Haiti in Dajabon, Dominican Republic, Friday, Nov. 19, 2021. **Associated Press**

Turkey hints new Syria offensive; Russia urges restraint

By SUZAN FRASER

Associated Press

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey's president again hinted at a possible new ground offensive in Syria against Kurdish militants on Tuesday, as Syrian forces denounced new airstrikes and Russia urged restraint and called on Ankara to avoid an escalation.

Russian presidential envoy in Syria Alexander Lavrentyev said that Turkey should "show a certain restraint" in order to prevent an escalation in Syria, where tensions heightened over the weekend after Turkish airstrikes killed and wounded a number of Syrian soldiers.

Lavrentyev expressed hope that "it will be possible to convince our Turkish partners to refrain from excessive use of force on Syrian territory."

Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces later said fresh Turkish airstrikes on Tuesday struck a base that the group shares with the U.S.-led coalition in the fight against the Islamic State group. The base is just outside the town of Qamishli, 50 kilometers (30 miles) from the Turkish border. Two SDF fighters were killed and three were wounded, the group said.

Turkey carried out airstrikes on suspected Kurdish mili-



Syrian Kurds attend a funeral of people killed in Turkish airstrikes in the village of Al Malikiyah, northern Syria, Monday, Nov. 21, 2022.

Associated Press

tant targets in northern Syria and Iraq over the weekend, in retaliation for a deadly Nov. 13 bombing in Istanbul that Ankara blames on the militant groups. The groups have denied involvement in the bombing. The airstrikes also hit several Syrian army positions in three provinces along the border with Turkey, and killed and wounded a number of Syrian soldiers, Syrian officials said. "We will, of course, call on our Turkish colleagues to show a certain restraint in order to prevent an esca-

lation of tension, and an escalation of tension not only in the north, but also in the entire territory of Syria," Lavrentyev was quoted as saying by the Russian state news agencies in the Kazakh capital, Astana, ahead of talks on Syria.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said Turkey's actions would not be limited to aerial strikes, suggesting a possible new incursion a position he reiterated on Tuesday.

"We have been on top of the terrorists for the past few days with our planes, artil-

lery and drones," Erdogan said: "Know that as soon as possible, we will root out all of them together with our tanks and soldiers."

Erdogan continued: "From now on, there is only one measure for us. There is only one border. (And that is) the safety of our own country, our own citizens. It is our most legitimate right to go where this security is ensured."

Turkey has launched three major incursions into northern Syria since 2016 and already controls some Syrian territory in the north.

Following the weekend's airstrikes from Turkey, on Monday suspected Kurdish militants in Syria fired rockets across the border into Turkey, killing at least two people and wounding 10 others, according to Turkish officials.

While Kurdish-led forces in Syria have not commented nor claimed responsibility for the attacks, the SDF on Monday vowed to respond to Turkish airstrikes "effectively and efficiently at the right time and place."

The Turkish warplanes attacked bases of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, and the Syrian People's Protection Units, or YPG on Saturday night and on Sunday. Turkish officials claimed that 89 targets were destroyed and many militants were killed.

A Syria war monitoring group said 35 people were killed in airstrikes over the weekend 18 Kurdish fighters, 16 Syrian government soldiers and a local journalist.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Tuesday that Moscow views Turkey's security concerns "with understanding and respect" but also urges Ankara to "refrain from steps that could lead to a serious destabilization of the situation in general." □

U.S. Navy probe: Iranian drone struck Israeli-linked tanker

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Investigators

have concluded that an Iranian drone was used to



This undated photo made available by Nabeel Hashmi shows Liberian-flagged oil tanker Pacific Zircon, operated by Singapore-based Eastern Pacific Shipping in Jebel Ali port, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on Aug. 16, 2015.

Associated Press

bomb an oil tanker linked to an Israeli billionaire last week, the U.S. Navy said on Tuesday.

The drone attack on the Liberian-flagged oil tanker Pacific Zircon last Tuesday off the coast of Oman appears to be part of the long-running shadow war between Israel and its archenemy Iran that has included the targeting of Israeli-linked ships in strategic Mideast waterways.

The Navy said explosives experts boarded the ship to assess the damage, including a 30-inch-wide (76-centimeter) hole punched in its side, and to collect debris and bomb residue. The evi-

dence was taken to a lab at the headquarters of the U.S. Fifth Fleet in the Gulf Arab nation of Bahrain.

Navy investigators concluded that the drone used was an Iranian Shahed-136, the same kind of bomb-carrying drone Iran has supplied to Russia in its war on Ukraine. Iranian drones were used by Yemeni rebels to attack Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates earlier this year, the Navy said.

"The Iranian attack on a commercial tanker transiting international waters was deliberate, flagrant and dangerous, endangering the lives of the ship's crew

and destabilizing maritime security in the Middle East," said Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command.

The Pacific Zircon is operated by Singapore-based Eastern Pacific Shipping, which is a company ultimately owned by Israeli billionaire Idan Ofer. Israeli and U.S. officials said at the time of the attack that they suspected Iran was behind it.

Iran has denied any involvement in the attack, with its mission to the United Nations dismissing the allegations as "false news" in a statement last week. □

Crossing for Prevention: Deaxo Croes successfully swims from Bonaire to Curaçao

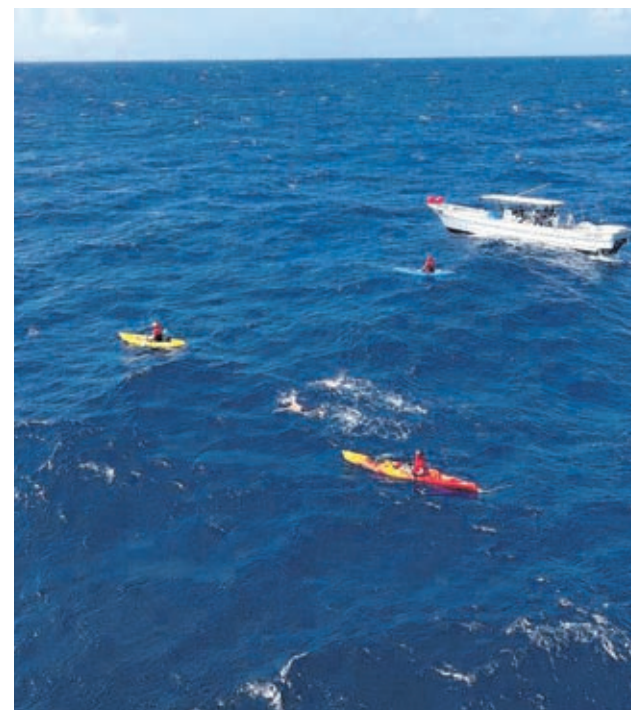
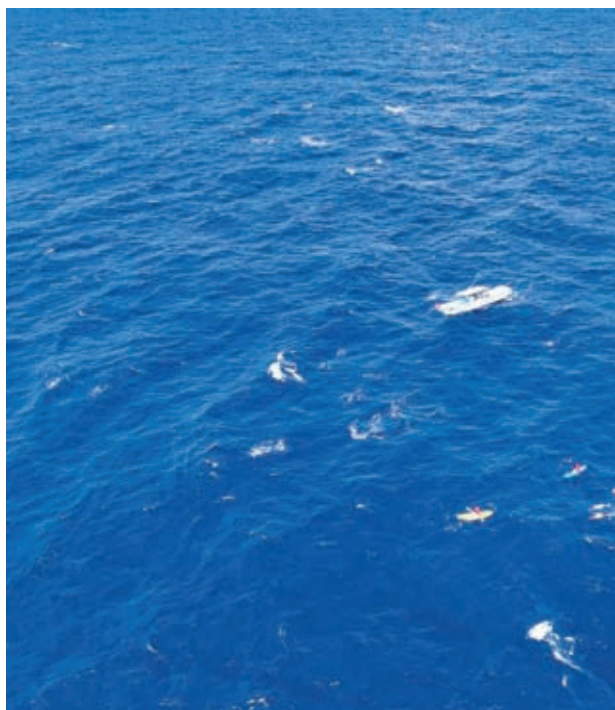
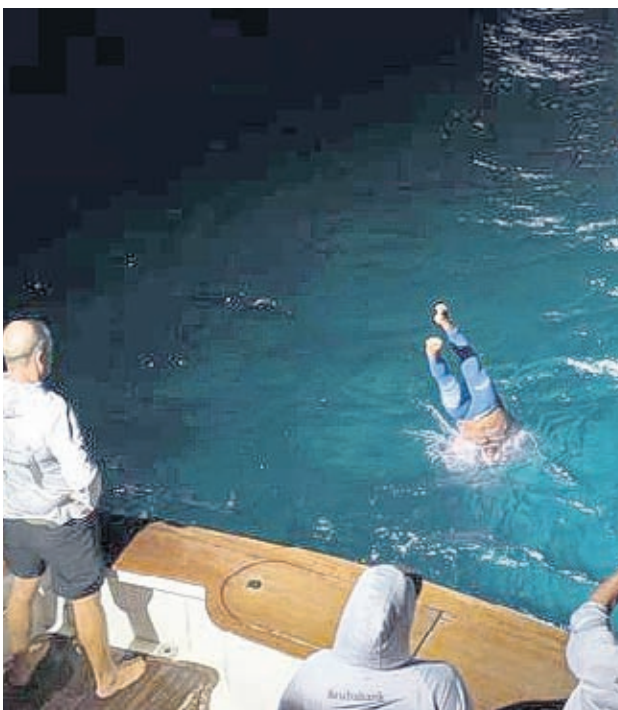
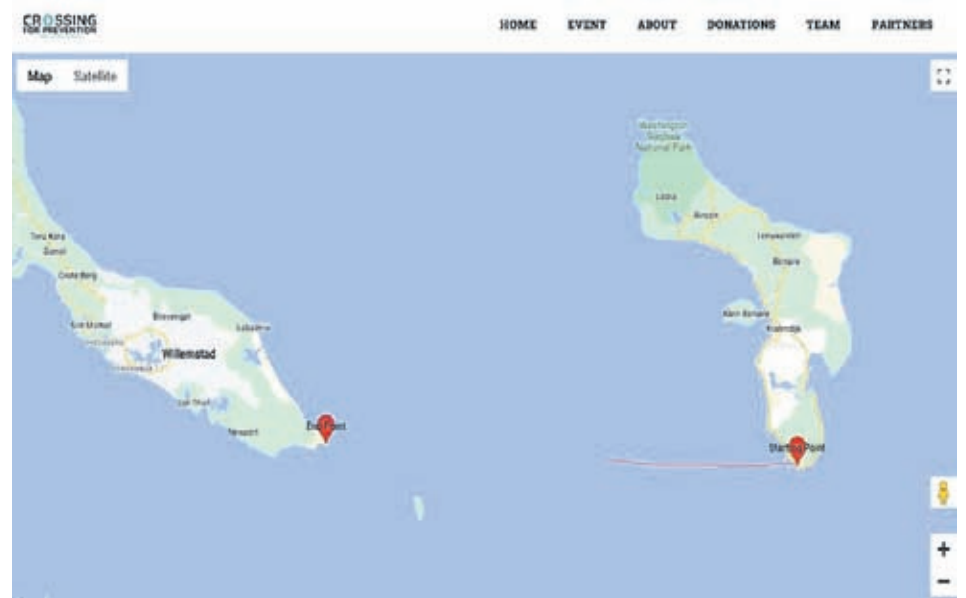
ORANJESTAD – Long-distance swimmer Deaxo Croes successfully swam 53km from Bonaire to Curaçao, not only to show courage, passion and physical and mental resistance, but also to raise funds for three foundations working to benefit Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao.

Cancer affects us all, and this is the reason why work needs to be done to help with cancer prevention on our islands. This is the reason why Deaxo Croes swam to raise funds for CORESA (Colorectal Screening Aruba), Kankerfonds (cancer funds) Bonaire, and Fundashon Preven-shon Curaçao (Prevention Foundation).

On the 19th of November at 3:02am Deaxo entered the water for his long swim. His team tracked the progress during the night on their Facebook page, keeping anxious followers up to date on the swimmer's condition. Deaxo swam with an average speed of 3.83 km/h. Around 5:12pm, Deaxo finally reached the coast in Curaçao, to great rejoicing from all those present.

Prime minister of Curaçao, Gilmar Pisas received the Aruban swimmer at The Pear Restaurant. He said that Deaxo would stop every 30 minutes to eat and check his temperature, all of this happening in the water. The prime minister welcomed Deaxo and congratulated him with his amazing achievement.

Aruba as a whole is very proud of Deaxo! ☐



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Aqua Grill restaurant: The taste of New England with Caribbean flair



ORANJESTAD — One thing is for certain: Chef Scott Scheuerman and his team are famous for getting people hooked, just like the fish on your plate. You will get the taste of home fused with Caribbean while dining in elegance. Scheuerman will tell how Aqua Grill established its name since opening in 2002, and why it reaped accolades from such prestigious travel publications as Fodor's, who says, "This hip restaurant is heaven on earth for seafood lovers, who will find fresh fish galore..." Now is your chance to taste Aqua Grill's NEW seasonal menu and create a lifetime culinary memory.

'A Scheuer thing'

Secretly, we all know that the success of a restaurant begins in the kitchen. That is where the chef creates his magic and for Aqua Grill the culinary team has won an assortment of awards for their continuous delivery of 'haute-cuisine del mar.' Classic seafood is mingled with contemporary ideas resulting in surprising dishes that soon made the restaurant a



must-dine, confirmed by established travel media specialists like Fodor's and Frommer's. American-born Scheuerman, executive chef of Aqua Grill, is thrilled about 'his restaurant'. "We started out as a New England style seafood restaurant, patterned after Boston style. But we quickly blended into some Caribbean, local flair... if you will. We do still offer the traditional New England dishes like whole Maine lobster, northern seafood plates like the salmon, tuna and swordfish. We buy also from the local fisherman to offer Caribbean dishes like snapper and grouper which are number one sellers in our restaurant being the most prevalent local fishes. Catches like wahoo, mahi mahi and brasil are welcome too, anything that comes out of the water we embrace."

Fresh import from Boston

Aqua Grill flies in their own shipments on a weekly basis mostly from Boston because the price quality balance is the best, says the chef. "We are unique in this. Number one priority is buying fresh, we mean not frozen. Our original concept is New England seafood and we stick to that concept. They have a wonderful assortment of oysters and lobsters as well." Aqua Grill also offers international fusion type of menu items; actually all you wish for is there. A very balanced menu awaits you. "And we have options for meat lovers and vegetarians/vegans too. We, however, do not mix it up too much because we believe we do not want to lose our identity as a seafood restaurant," Scheuerman adds.

Sublime menu

Now is the time to indulge in Aqua Grill's dinner experience. The established restaurant offers a sensational menu. We present to you a Raw Bar with among others fresh Oysters on the half Shell, Littleneck Clams, Peruvian Ceviche and Lobster Salad. Steamed Dumplings and Prawns or Steamed Mussels seduce you from the open view kitchen.

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The Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino, in the vanguard of health promotion

Palm beach – Two local organizations, Stichting BOB and IBISA visited the resort in early October to raise awareness of the importance of personal health care, as they relate to routine health care and improved lifestyle choices.

Stichting BOB, dropped in, in connection with Breast Cancer Awareness. The foundation is dedicated to on-time detection of ir-

regularities in the breast of healthy women between the ages of forty-five (45) and seventy-five (75) for possible breast cancer. Early detection increases the life expectancy of breast cancer survivors and makes a less invasive and intensive treatment possible.

Resort female Team-Members were invited to attend an interactive lecture with Dr. Sharline Vis taught Team members proper self-check

procedures.

IBISA, Instituto Biba Saludabel y Activo, a local government department, organizes active-life sport activities. They conducted conduct a "Women's Health Survey," in which 11 Team Members participated, women between the ages of 35 – 45. The group IBISA was poling for the purpose of gaining insight into their health habits, seeking ways to improve them,



picking healthier options. Both organizations report that the Hilton Team Members are aware of the con-

nection between lifestyle and health, and are making efforts to prevent and reduce disease. □

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Article by Etnia Nativa

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Aruban Native Art

Episode CLXXXI- 181

Etnia Nativa through Island Insight shares native cultural awareness educates and safeguards Aruba's heritage and encourage readers to experiment island keeper state of mind.

During this episode we want to raise awareness that Rock Art is an important part of our heritage and that, contrary to popular belief, it was not created by under-developed cannibalistic inhabitants of a mythical era nor does it reflect maps of buried treasure nor was it intended to scare the demons or evil spirits. What rock art provides is a means to understand the sacred and mundane perspective of life.

The artistic expressions of the aboriginal inhabitants of Aruba had a cosmic vision of spiritual inspiration and visualization of the creative process of their universe. This form of artistic expression has been practiced for hundreds and even thousands of years in America continent. These are artistic expressions created as symbols that represent a stellar constellations, animals, spirits, objects or people. Some scientists even believe that the rock art represents ancient space travelers. While, for example, the European artistic style was the realism that carefully represented what was observed, Rock Art always shared a message or engraved a historical fact on a rock. But looking back at rock art, there is a very long history as the oldest known rock art to be found in North America known as the Cooper Bison Skull near Fort Supply, Oklahoma dating from 10200 BC. In Aruba we can find over 300 early rock art expressions left behind by our ancestors. Some works were made on hard stone and on in limestone cave other similar designs where baked out of refined clay in to ceramic works. Native Aruban Art consists of powerful cultural symbols that reflect the complexities of societies and its spiritual connection to their tribal cosmology.



Etnia Nativa take great pride in harvesting their own materials, such as clay, earth pigments, or vegetal fibers or dyes to color processing their works using traditional of tribal methods handed down through generations.

Actually Etnia Nativa is rediscovering ancient techniques that have been applied in their contemporary native inspired work. This is an ideal and a very fine way to keep ancient techniques and methods alive and to incorporate cultural philosophies into these forms while working with the same cultural accountability, a philosophical tenet that

transcends chronology or material but still allows their motive and ambition to be shown.

As a native cultural Aruba's expert, Etnia Nativa is passionate about sharing her knowledge of the island, considering the status and value of archeological and rock formation sites, historic natural monuments and endemic flora and fauna. For all these reasons, and just for you, the doors of a museum home open that advocates for sustainable management of our environment and for the mitigation of the demographic impact on our ecosystem promoting "the return to ancestral practices" giving visitors more reasons to love Aruba.

Now if you are intrigued the islands origins and its cultural heritage we encourage you to do something different outside the tourist grid. Be one of the exclusive visitor of Etnia Nativa private residential set were you will be able to touch and be touched by authentic Aruba, an spectacle of native art, archaic as well as archaeological artifacts, lithic tools colonial furniture and many collected items. Get inside a recycled environment full of peace and relaxation, knowledge and information.

Etnia Nativa is since 1994 the home and atelier of our acclaimed columnist, artist and island connoisseur, opening and sharing his resplendent home; experience 100% native Aruba, something completely different for a change. Appointment is required + 297 592 2702 or. etnianaativa03@gmail.com ☐



Colegio San Augustin students visited Arikok National Park

ORANJESTAD – Last Friday, Colegio San Augustin organized a trip for its students, which took place in the Arikok National Park, where the students received a lot of information regarding the flora and fauna at the park.

In the end, the students had to answer a quiz based on all the information they received from the Park Rangers. This was in connection to the subjects of Nature and Technology as well as



Biology.

Colegio San Augustin thanks Arikok National Park

and the Park Rangers for their guidance during this special trip. □



Youth Parliament celebrated World Children's Day with "Debate and Speaking Championship"

ORANJESTAD – Last Sunday, minister of Justice and Social Affairs, Mr. Rocco Tjon was present during the "Debate and Speaking Championship" organized by the Youth Parliament, which had as theme "inclusion for every child."

The event was in the context of World Children's Day on the 20th of November. Tjon said that as Justice Minister he was glad to see

that they chose to celebrate this day with a debate. "In the rule of law, debate is important to bring a balance between ideas and ideologies.

A debate contributes to the personal development of each young participant, it helps form future leaders and also contributes to a better community", according to a press release. □



CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

ACROSS 46 Nodding, perhaps

1 Mon-sieur's wife

7 Do the decks

11 Tolerated

12 Rocker Collins

13 Zodiac twins

14 Sword part

15 Beginning

17 Shop tools

20 Minotaur's home

23 "That's gross!"

24 Plant boss

26 Avril follower

27 Fury

28 CPR expert

29 So far

31 Orang-utan, e.g.

32 Tick off

33 Rating unit

34 "Ben-Hur" star

37 Keg contents

39 Steers clear of

43 Peruse

44 Oldest Brady daughter

45 Choir voice

DOWN 1 Periodical, for short

2 Tad's dad

3 Poorly lit

4 Sonora sendoff

5 List of choices

6 Do copy work

7 Bubble, e.g.

8 Thanks-giving choice

9 Suffer

10 Diner sandwich

16 Threaded fastener

B	A	M	B	I	L	A	S	S	O
A	R	I	E	L	A	S	T	O	R
K	E	T	T	L	E	C	H	I	P
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			V	A	L	U	E		
A	L	L	E	Y	P	L	O	T	S
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S	E	W	U	P	G	O	B	A	D
			S	A	T	I	O	N	
A	D	O		D	O	T	P	O	E
M	E	M	O	R	Y	C	H	I	P
P	L	A	N	E	H	E	T	U	P
S	I	R	E	S	A	N	T	S	Y

Yesterday's answer

17 Recap 33 Sleep
18 Visibly sound
shocked 35 Scots'
19 1949 toppers
Cagney 36 Egg
movie outline
21 Lightning 37 Lingerie
home buy
22 Door sign 38 Snaky
24 Parking swimmer
penalties 40 Rocks at
25 Spanish the bar
gold 41 Brief
30 Exagger- drop
ate 42 Utter

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13						14			
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43					44				
45					46				

AXYDLBAAXR
IS LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's. X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-23

CRYPTOQUOTE

K X G H O J X F W F A P H ' V S Q E W C

A E V K R F S G H V P H I F H I V , P H I

V P C A C S Q E W C J P V G X P I

V D Z X L W G F H I V . — J G Q Q G P A

R D K Q F W C F P K V

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I GREW UP WITH SIX BROTHERS. THAT'S HOW I LEARNED TO DANCE — WAITING FOR THE BATHROOM. — BOB HOPE

Millennial Money: How stay-at-home spouses can build credit

By **SARA RATHNER** of Nerd-Wallet

Spouses share a lot, but no matter your relationship status, your credit score belongs to you and you alone. Even if you're 100% supported financially by your spouse or partner, establishing and building your own credit score is essential.

It can benefit you both as you navigate financial decisions together. But should you divorce or your spouse pass away, having good or excellent credit can help you as you begin to make financial decisions on your own.

Besides, maintaining some money independence can keep you both on equal footing in your relationship.

"A household's financial dependence on one income earner can foster unhealthy relationship control dynamics," said Katherine Fox, a certified financial planner, founder and advisor at Sunnybranch Wealth in Portland, Oregon, in an email.

"Stay-at-home spouses who take steps to protect their credit score and financial literacy are doing their part to maintain a healthy money attitude and dynamic within their relationship."

WHY YOUR CREDIT SCORE IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT

Any time you and your spouse apply for a joint loan, like a mortgage, both of your credit scores get evaluated by the lender. Lenders may use the person's score that falls on the lower end to determine your eligibility. Ideally, even the lowest score between



In this June 15, 2018, file photo, cash is fanned out from a wallet in North Andover, Mass.

Associated Press

you both is still in good shape because this can affect what loan terms, like interest rates, you'd qualify for together. A lower credit score can make borrowing money more expensive.

Your credit score also comes into play when you apply for a credit card in your own name, which you can do even if you don't earn an income. So long as you're 21 or older, you can include your spouse's income on the card application.

Moreover, unexpectedly becoming single again is the most difficult reason nonworking spouses need to build their credit.

"Having a solid foundation will help you if you end up alone and need capital to get started," says Brittany Davis, a Memphis, Tennessee-based accredited financial counselor who is an associate financial planner for Brunch & Budget, a registered investment advisor. "I know some people are leery of

credit and debt, but there are so many things credit can be used for."

Davis likens credit access to insurance it's something that's good to have, whether or not you need it at the moment.

WAYS TO BUILD CREDIT WITHOUT AN INCOME

Besides applying for your own credit card using your spouse's income in your application, there are other ways to build your credit. You can become an authorized user on your spouse's credit card. They'd be responsible for making payments, but if they pay on time each month and you both avoid charging more than 30% of the credit limit, over time this can build your credit score.

Applying for loans under both of your names, like an auto loan or mortgage, can also be helpful as on-time payments will be reflected on both of your credit reports.

"At the very least, stay-at-home spouses should be a joint account holder or added to their partner's credit card to help them build and maintain their own credit score," Fox says. Be sure to also pay other household bills on time, including utility bills and rent payments. In some cases, those are also reported to credit bureaus. □

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24/7

Hard-working Colombian beetles clean garbage, retire as pets



Colombian environmental engineer Germán Viasus Tibamoso, owner of Tierra Viva, holds a Hercules beetle in Tunja, Colombia, Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022.

Associated Press

By **ASTRID SUÁREZ**
Associated Press

TUNJA, Colombia (AP) —

Three yellow-and-black beetles clung to the shirt of Germán Viasus Tibamoso, a Colombian environmental engineer who uses beetle larvae to transform food waste into fertilizers.

As he encouraged them to move along, he murmured to them in Japanese — trying to get them accustomed, he said, to the sounds of their future homes.

The not-so-little bugs — which can grow up to 17 centimeters (6.5 inches) long — have a remarkably productive and complicated life among the humans who breed and collect them.

Viasus operates a company called Tierra Viva in a rural area around the city of Tunja, a city some 150 kilometers (95 miles) northwest of the Colombian capital of Bogotá.

An attempt as a post-graduate student to produce organic fertilizer with worms failed, Viasus said, but he found beetle larvae in the bags of earth that remained. He tried using them instead. And it worked.

Tons of food scraps collected from nearby communities are spread in concrete ditches and covered with earth. Then beetle larvae — the stage between egg and adulthood — are introduced. □

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Cartoonists honor 'Peanuts' creator in Saturday funny pages

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Cartoonists across the nation are celebrating the 100th birthday of "Peanuts" creator Charles M. Schulz as only they can with cartoons.

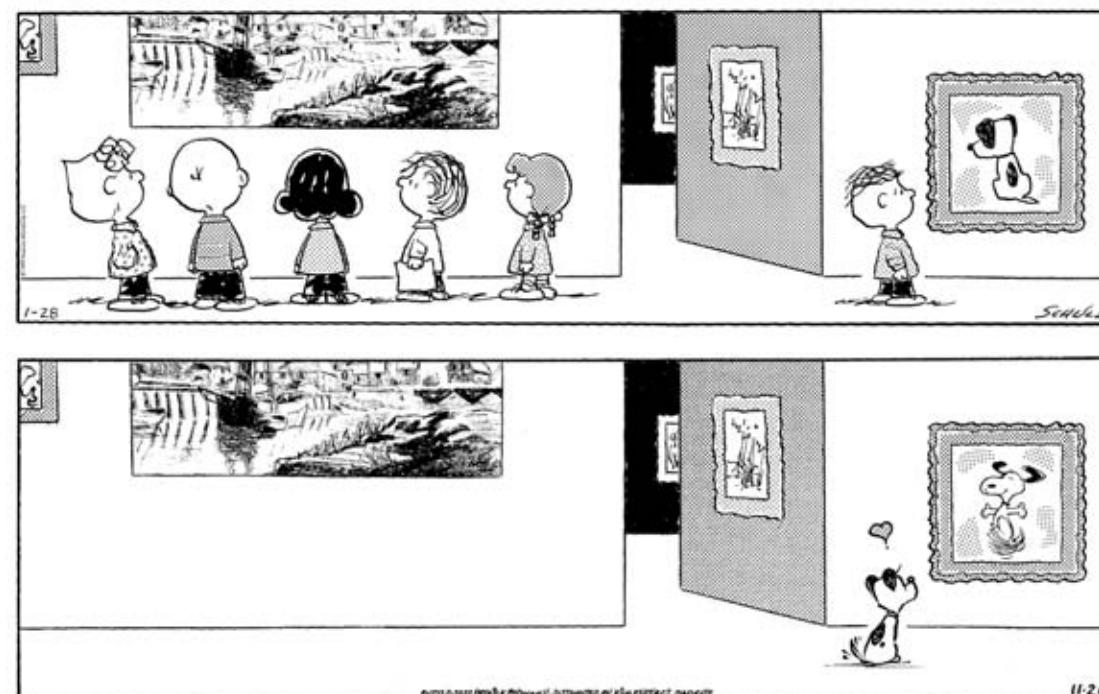
More than 75 syndicated cartoonists have tucked tributes, Easter eggs and references to "Peanuts" in Saturday's funny papers to honor the creator of Charlie Brown, Snoopy and company.

"It's a tribute to probably the world's greatest cartoonist," said cartoonist Patrick McDonnell, who creates the daily strip "Mutts" for 700 newspapers. "After 'Peanuts,' the cartoon world changed. I think most working cartoonists today would say he was the inspiration for them to become cartoonists."

The list of participating strips ranges from "B.C.," "Dennis the Menace" and "Rhymes With Orange" to "Zippy the Pinhead" and "Zits."

Each artist was encouraged to come up with their own way to honor Schulz, who was known as "Sparky."

John Kovalski, who draws "Daddy Daze," has drawn the strip's father, Paul, and infant, Angus, discussing "Peanuts" on an opened newspaper. "Ba ba?" asks the baby. To which dad replies: "That's 'Peanuts' by



This combination of photos shows a "Peanuts" cartoon by Charles M. Schulz in 1999 showing kids at a museum with one off on the side, gazing at a painting of the dog Earl from "Mutts," top, and an upcoming "Mutts" cartoon by Patrick McDonnell showing Earl at the museum fondly looking at a framed image of Snoopy.

Associated Press

Charles M. Schulz. He revolutionized the comics page by adding depth and character and emotion."

John Hambrock, creator of "The Brilliant Mind of Edison Lee," drew a visit from World War I pilot Snoopy in his strip and Edison asking his dad for "extra aviation fuel."

The cartoonist has also decorated the family home with framed images of Charlie Brown and Lucy. "We left it all up to them. Cartoonists are creative people. When you have a daily deadline, you need

to have ideas come to you," said McDonnell. "I think people enjoyed the challenge of coming up with something to express their love and admiration for that guy."

McDonnell, who is a member of the board of directors of the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center, dreamed up the tribute and he and "Jump-Start" cartoonist Robb Armstrong contacted the various cartoon syndicates with their plan.

"I'm pretty confident that when you open the news-

paper that morning, the whole comic page is going to be a tribute to Sparky," said McDonnell. "I'm personally looking forward to the surprise that Saturday to see what people did." For his tribute, McDonnell repaid a kindness Schulz gave him. In a "Peanuts" strip from 1999, Schulz drew his cartoon boys and girls visiting a museum and Re-run off on the side looking up with respect at a painting of the dog Earl from "Mutts."

A framed copy of that strip hangs proudly over Mc-

Donnell's drawing table: "I look at it every day and think of what a wonderful gesture that was and what a wonderful man and what a wonderful comic strip."

So, in return, this Saturday, readers of "Mutts" will see Earl at a museum looking up fondly his little tail wagging at a framed image of Snoopy. "Mines pretty personal," McDonnell said.

"Peanuts" made its debut Oct. 2, 1950. The travails of the "little round-headed kid" Charlie Brown and his pals eventually ran in more than 2,600 newspapers, reaching millions of readers in 75 countries.

The strip offered enduring images of kites in trees, Charlie Brown trying to kick a football, tart-tongued Lucy handing out advice for a nickel at what looked like a lemonade stand and Snoopy taking the occasional flight of fancy to the skies. Phrases such as "security blanket" and "good grief" are a part of the global vernacular. Schulz died in 2000.

"'Peanuts' was everything. I read 'Peanuts' books every night, and I wanted to be a cartoonist because of that since I was 4. To actually have my own little cartoon character in 'Peanuts' it still boggles," said McDonnell. "Every morning I look at it and I still can't believe it happened." □

Gladys Knight's Christmas: big family gathering, TV movie



This image released by Great American Media shows Gladys Knight in a scene from "I'm Glad It's Christmas," premiering Nov. 26 on the Great American Family channel.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Gladys Knight recalls Christmas as more than a family affair when she was growing up in Atlanta.

"Because Mom and Dad were the way they were, they would just embrace all the kids in the neighborhood," said the legendary singer. Many of the children were in the same church choir and "we were just so excited about the music."

She counts "O Holy Night" as a favorite Christmas song. The best childhood gift she received? A bicycle, blue and silver, "and it was sharp."

Knight will be celebrating the holiday on-screen in the TV movie "I'm Glad It's Christmas," airing 8 p.m. EST Saturday on the Great American Family channel. Knight plays matchmaker Cora, who wants to bring together a salesclerk dreaming of Broadway fame (Jessica Lowndes) and a songwriter (Paul Greene) for a small town's Christmas concert.

Knight said she and husband William McDowell expect their Asheville, North Carolina, home to be packed as usual this Christmas, given their large brood of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

"Everybody's invited to come in a good mood and share the joy," said Knight, a seven-time Grammy winner known for hits including "I Heard It Through the Grapevine" and "Midnight Train to Georgia." □

Once forbidden, gambling now embraced by NFL



People make bets at the sportsbook at the Ocean Casino Resort, Feb. 10, 2022, in Atlantic City, N.J.

Associated Press

By JOSH DUBOW
AP Pro Football Writer

Gambling has gone from the forbidden topic in the NFL to a key part of the league's present and future. The days of lobbying against widespread legalized sports betting, preventing broadcast partners from even discussing point spreads and even prohibiting players from holding a fantasy football convention because it was at a casino are firmly in the past. With a team playing in Las Vegas just a short walk from the casinos on The Strip, sponsorship deals with gambling companies who pay millions for in-game advertisements and teams having sports books next to their stadiums, the relationship between America's

richest sports league and gambling is stronger than ever. "The NFL has evolved quickly with the growing importance of sports betting on the overall ecosystem," said Robert Fishman, a senior analyst with MoffettNathanson, a division of SVB Securities.

"Sports betting is continuing to grow in importance and will continue to be a driver of growth. We're still in the very early days and there will be a natural evolution of how this continues to grow." The growth has been astronomical already since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PASPA) in 2018, setting the stage for legalized sports betting to spread outside

Nevada to most of the rest of the country.

More than 30 states and Washington, D.C., allow sports betting either online or in person with several more set to join them in the next few years.

The NFL is doing its best to capitalize on that just a handful of years after Commissioner Roger Goodell sent a letter to the court considering the overturning of PASPA that said sports betting "threatens to damage irreparably the integrity of, and public confidence in, NFL football."

While there have been some issues like star receiver Calvin Ridley getting suspended for the season for betting on his own team's games while being a member of the Atlanta Falcons, it has been a relatively smooth evolution.

"We're happy with the growth and the structures that we're seeing across most places," said David Highhill, the NFL's vice president, general manager of sports betting. Highhill said the league also is focused on "responsible gambling" and gave a grant to the National Council on Problem Gambling to focus on that area.

The NFL has signed deals with DraftKings, FanDuel and Caesars Entertainment that reportedly could be

worth about \$1 billion for the league over five years.

Those companies have fueled an advertising spending spree that saw gambling companies spend \$129 million in advertising during NFL games during the 2021 season, according to research from the Kantar Group.

Research from MoffettNathanson shows that legalized sports betting revenue in the United States grew from less than \$500 million in 2019 in the first year after PASPA was overturned to more than \$3 billion in 2021. "In a few short years, the very idea of sports betting has been transformed from a taboo and sub rosa vice into a major business opportunity," the company said in the report. "From sports leagues to rights owners to consumers, it is clear how important sports betting is today and how quickly sentiment has reversed the stigma that once was attached to this industry."

The company projects the legalized sports betting market will generate \$10.8 billion in revenue in 2025, with the NFL the most popular sport for bettors.

A poll conducted by Morning Consult for the American Gaming Association reported that about 47 million people plan to bet on NFL games in 2022, a

Group C

ARG	1 - 2	KSA	nov 22
MEX	0 - 0	POL	nov 22

Group D

DEN	0 - 0	TUN	nov 22
FRA	4 - 1	AUS	nov 22

Group E

GER	- -	JAP	nov 23
ESP	- -	CRC	nov 23

Group F

MAR	- -	CRO	nov 23
BEL	- -	CAN	nov 23

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40% increase from just two years ago as sports betting has been legalized in more and more states. □

Darrell Revis among Pro Football Hall of Fame semifinalists



Former New York Jets cornerback Darrelle Revis speaks during a news conference officially announcing his retirement from NFL football, Tuesday, July 24, 2018, in Florham Park, N.J.

Associated Press

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — Four-time All-Pro cornerback Darrelle Revis is one of five first-year eligible players among 28 modern day semifinalists for the Pro Football Hall of Fame's class of 2023.

Joining Revis as candidates for induction next year are offensive linemen Jahri Evans and Joe Thomas, defensive lineman Dwight Freeney and linebacker James Harrison. Each last played in the 2017 season. Henry Ellard and London Fletcher are semifinalists for the first time. Albert Lewis, a semifinalist in 2013, is also on the list.

Ellard, who retired following

the 1998 season, and Lewis, who also retired in 1998, are in their final year of eligibility as modern era players. Torry Holt returns for the ninth time, Hines Ward and Darren Woodson are semifinalists for the seventh time and Ronde Barber makes the list for the sixth time. Zach Thomas is a fifth-timer and James Willis and Reggie Wayne are back for a fourth time.

Eric Allen, Jared Allen, Willie Anderson, Anquan Boldin, Rodney Harrison, Devin Hester, Andre Johnson, Robert Mathis, Steve Smith Sr., Fred Taylor, DeMarcus Ware, Ricky Watters and Vince Wilfork complete the

list.

The 28 semifinalists will be reduced to 15 finalists before the final voting process in January.

The inductees will be announced on Feb. 9 during NFL Honors, the prime-time awards show when The Associated Press reveals its individual award winners for the 2022 NFL season, including Most Valuable Player and Coach of the Year.

Four finalists previously announced are Don Coryell in the coaching category, and Chuck Howley, Joe Klecko and Ken Riley in the senior category. □

Analysis: As NBA's first quarter ends, the contenders emerge

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

Miami Heat President Pat

You kind of have an idea of who you are, where you need to improve, your

through 20 games. Golden State last season, best record through 20

the road record, you can't even find a sustainable period of success when habits

10 through 20 games last season and wound up in the NBA Finals, where they fell to Golden State in six games.

Besides, rallies from near the middle to the top have happened before.

The 2002-03 San Antonio Spurs were ninth-best after 20 games; the 1998-99 Spurs were eighth-best, and both those clubs went on to win titles. During Michael Jordan's first championship season, 1990-91, the Bulls were 10th in the league after 20 games.

And in the NBA's initial two seasons, the first two champions got off to slow starts. The 1946-47 Philadelphia Warriors were fifth-best out of 11 teams through 20 games; a year later, the Baltimore Bulls were fourth-best out of eight teams.

And this year, let's face it, mediocrity reigns. It's still early. Not enough time has passed for anyone to truly separate themselves. A five-game winning streak could send some clubs vaulting up the standings. A five-game slide could send some teams into a freefall.

So, maybe this will be the season when a team can buck the trend, shake off a slower-than-anticipated start and become a contender after all.

But in games, the team that leads after the first quarter usually wins.

In seasons, it tends to go the same way. And the first quarter is about to end. If a team is going to get into the race, this would be a good time to get into gear. □

Associated Press



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) reacts after a 3-point basket by guard Klay Thompson (11) during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the New York Knicks in San Francisco, Friday, Nov. 18, 2022.

Riley has a longstanding belief: After 20 games, a team knows its identity. He's right. And after 20 games, title contenders are usually known as well. Think of this as the end of the season's first quarter. That's basically where the NBA is right now, with teams starting to approach the 20-game mark. There's much basketball left to be played, but 20 games has proven — almost without fail — to be more than enough of a sample size when determining which teams have a legitimate shot at a championship. The numbers show it. The teams know it, too. "We look at 20 games," Phoenix coach Monty Williams said. "It can get stretched out a bit if you have injuries, but for the most part, your identity and who you are is pretty much set. You've gone through the league to a degree. ...

strengths from a numbers standpoint, and then the players pretty much have an idea of what kind of team you're going to be." In 2005-06, Miami had the league's 13th-best record through 20 games; the Heat were just 10-10, though few knew at the time Riley was about to return as coach. In 1997-98, Chicago — then winners of five of the league's last seven titles — was 11th-best in the NBA through 20 games; the Bulls looked bored and were 12-8. Those are the only two instances of an eventual NBA champion not being in the top 10 in terms of record that deep into a season. (In fairness, there were a few seasons without 10 teams back in the early days, but play along.) That's bad news for a lot of teams right now. Each of the last 16 champions have had no worse than the fifth-best record

games. The 2018-19 Toronto Raptors and 2019-20 Los Angeles Lakers, best record through 20 games. The 2014-15 and 2016-17 Warriors, best record through 20 games. They all won titles. That's good news for the Boston Celtics, who are well on their way to having the best record in the NBA at the 20-game mark this season. That's not great news for the Warriors, who are 8-10 and 11th in the West — but are still well within striking distance of everyone. That's also not great news for the Heat, who finished with the best regular-season record in the Eastern Conference last season and are 7-11 now with a slew of key players hurt. "We need to figure out what it's going to take to win and figure out what everybody needs to do differently, more consistently," Golden State guard Stephen Curry said. "Forget

start to form and we're in a position where we're feeling good about ourselves. We're still searching and chasing a little bit." The Celtics aren't chasing. They're among those being chased. The team with the best record through 20 games has won the title 34 times in the league's first 76 seasons. "You have to be able to make each other better whether you have the ball or not," said Celtics interim coach Joe Mazzulla, who in the span of less than two months has gone from being an assistant coach, to the person in charge after the Ime Udoka suspension, to the coach of a team that's a popular pick to win the NBA title. "And our guys are bought into making each other better if they have the ball or not. It's cool to watch." The Celtics should be the first team not to write off anyone. They were 10-

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